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Fall 2010

UPDATE

An inside look at your Cedarville investment

OneVoice Gospel Choir
Free to Worship

"When I learned I had received a scholarship to come to Cedarville, my family and I began to praise God and bless Him because our situation did not exceed Him. He was over it. He is all powerful — whatever His people need He provides. My dad had been praying for me to get a scholarship, and immediately when we found out we just lifted our hands and said, 'Thank you, Lord!'"

Darris Sneed '13, worship major



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FINDING LISA'S VOICE

BY KAREN HUMBERSON

When they saw how OneVoice transformed their daughter's life, Brent and Karen Humberson became the choir's biggest fans.

LISA ALWAYS HAD a hard time in school. Although she worked very hard, things didn't quite click. In tenth grade, she transferred to a smaller high school where she received more individual assistance. That change made all the difference — she raised her grade point average from 1.9 her freshman year to 3.5 and higher her senior year.

When it came time to look at colleges, Lisa had her heart set on Cedarville. Her sister, Laura, graduated in 2006 and had a wonderful experience. But Lisa's cumulative GPA was lower than what admissions required. I was confident Cedarville was where she belonged, but the decision would be up to the admission board.

I got the call from Roscoe Smith, associate vice president of enrollment management, that Lisa had been denied admission. We cried together when I gave her the news. This dream seemed out of her grasp. We could only move on and trust that God had something else in store.

It was a Thursday when I got another call from Roscoe. "I can't get your daughter off my mind," he said. He had taken a second look at her application and brought her file before the admission board to be reconsidered. She would have to begin the year on academic probation, but she had been accepted! God had a place for my daughter at Cedarville.

I went with Lisa to meet Kim Ahlgrim, director of The Cove. Kim understood what Lisa needed to succeed, and she introduced us to many resources available at the academic enrichment center that could help Lisa make a smooth transition to college. Early in Lisa's first semester, Kim suggested Lisa check out the OneVoice Gospel Choir, a group of students from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities where everyone is welcome to come and sing.

Lisa's sister had sung with OneVoice and loved it, so she went to rehearsal that night and learned the choir was holding auditions for small group ensembles. Excited, she called home asking, "I'm just a freshman, do you think I could try out?" I knew even then, "Lisa, you can do anything you want."

When she called home days later, she sounded like a different person. She'd made the ensemble. She had found a place to belong.

The students in OneVoice have become an important part of Lisa's college experience and her life. Lisa struggles with

depression, and in the fall of her sophomore year, a chapel speaker spoke on this topic. He asked students struggling with depression to stand, and Lisa stood. Her friends from OneVoice got out of their seats and came across the chapel to surround her and pray over her. This act of love, acceptance, and friendship was like nothing she had experienced before.

I don't know where Lisa would be today, or who she would be, without the unconditional love and intervention she received at Cedarville. Her confidence has grown as she has led 3,000 students in worship. She has a leadership role with her women's service organization, and she started a campus job this fall at The Cove.

Lisa's remarkable transformation began when God prompted Roscoe to go back and look at her file. That step opened important doors of opportunity, and God brought the right people into her life at the right time to invest in her future.

THIS STORY IS WHY my husband and I decided to invest in Cedarville and the OneVoice Gospel Choir. They recorded an album called "Free to Worship," and I think I've given away at least 65 CDs to anyone who will listen. I often have it playing in my home, and most days I'm singing along with my hands lifted in praise.

I thank God for OneVoice and the students that have surrounded my daughter with friendship and love. I am thrilled that we can give back to encourage and support this incredible ministry.



AN INTERVIEW WITH ONEVOICE DIRECTOR, JUSTIN SPANN

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ONEVOICE? OneVoice exists to give every student the opportunity to be involved in worship ministry. There are no auditions; every student is welcome. OneVoice is a place where diversity, passionate worship, and expressive praise are celebrated. Students encourage each other through sharing testimonies of God's greatness.

WHY DO YOU INVEST YOUR TIME, ENERGY, AND PASSION WITH THIS CHOIR?

As a student, OneVoice was my lifeline! It was where I made most of my friends, and it was my little piece of home where I knew I could worship God with all my might and be encouraged. I never feared rejection, and I could share my struggles and know I would be prayed for and continually lifted up.

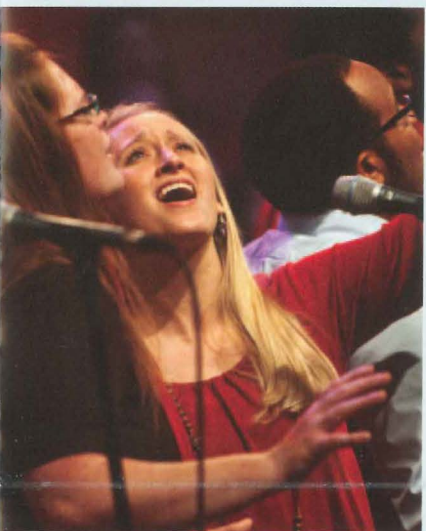
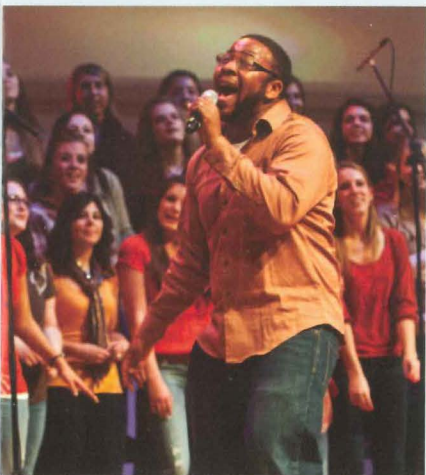
As a staff member, OneVoice is still all those things to me and more. I love the opportunity the Lord has given me to share with students my passion for worshipping Him. I've had the chance to personally invest in so many students and help them work through the process of making their faith their own. I invest so much of myself into OneVoice, and the students unknowingly pour right back into me with their passion for seeking and serving God in worship through music. We keep each other's "lamps trimmed and burning."

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH GOD IN WORSHIP?

It feels like heaven! There's no other way to describe it! You can sense when the atmosphere changes from a concert to a time of unrestricted worship. It's no longer about whether the notes are right or whether the audience is enjoying our presentation. As the body of Christ we are unified in the Holy Spirit, and He reminds us that we are only saved by the grace of God. We are reminded of our sinful nature and God's compassion and mercy! We are reminded of the incredible sacrifice that God made to redeem us and the victory we have gained through his work on Calvary. We are unified in that awareness and respond in obedience, unparalleled gratitude, worship, and humility. Our differences become irrelevant.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR ONEVOICE?

I started directing OneVoice with the conviction that our students would become known for their love for God and their love for worship — that we would be recognized by our praise and that we would never hesitate to outwardly glorify God for who He is and for what He has done. That remains my goal. I encourage students to give their very best not so that we sound good but because God deserves the very best we can offer. We should take advantage of every opportunity to praise Him whether we feel like it or not! That kind of love and praise is infectious, and our goal is to keep passing it on!



EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF WORSHIP WITH ONEVOICE! WHEN YOU SEND A GIFT OF \$100 OR MORE, WE WILL SEND YOU "FREE TO WORSHIP," A 14-TRACK CD FEATURING ONEVOICE GOSPEL CHOIR. USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO SEND YOUR GIFT TODAY!

BREAKING THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

A TESTIMONY BY KATY RUSSELL '10



One of my great memories from Cedarville is the OneVoice summer tour in Europe. We visited six countries in five weeks. We knew language would be an obstacle, so we had been praying that people would understand what we were singing about. Our director, Justin Spann, reminded us to show them what we were singing.

After our first concert at a church in France, some older women approached us and said they could see our joy. They had never seen so much joy, and they understood how much God meant to us. A few of them were saved at that concert! We had hoped we could somehow communicate, but we soon realized this wasn't about us. It was about God working through us and being bigger than language and cultural barriers. He chose us to be there in that time and place so He could use us to bring those women to Christ. It was really inspiring to see God answer our prayers.

OneVoice was different from any other choir I have been in. We didn't sing to entertain; we sang to worship. Sometimes, in the middle of a song, I would hear a line or a phrase in an entirely new light, and I could sense God speaking directly to me. I couldn't help but stop in that moment as a feeling of gratitude washed over me, and I'd just listen to everyone singing all around me. It was a little taste of heaven.

Your investment in Cedarville opens up amazing opportunities for students. It means a lot that people gave to make my Cedarville experience so meaningful. Thank you for continuing your gifts for students today!

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